

Appl. No. 10/623,240
Amdt. dated August 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 05/19/2005

REMARKS

General

Pending in this patent application are Claims 1 and 3-20. Claim 1 and 16 have been amended and Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer of the Applicants' right to present a claim directed to the subject matter recited in this claim in this application or in other continuing applications.

Specification

In the specification, a number of paragraphs were amended to correct minor issues relating to reference numerals. For example, reference numerals were amended to properly denote a line (24) and an apparatus (32) of the present invention. Support for these amendments can be found at least in Figures 1 and 2 of the currently pending patent application.

Claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, and 6-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clermont et al (5,828,729), and Claims 2-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clermont et al (5,828,729) in view of Brockman et al (5,592,530).

Currently amended Claim 1 (which includes at least a limitation of presently canceled Claim 2) advantageously includes, among other elements, a signal transfer point, wherein said mass call event detector and said notifier are *embodied within said signal transfer point*. Support for this amendment can be found at least in Figures 1 and 2, as well as in the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 11 of the currently pending patent application.

Examiner, on page 4 of the Office Action, states, "Clermont does not clearly teach that the network comprises an STP and wherein the mass call event detector and notifier

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are embodied at the STP. Brockman teaches that the network comprises an STP and wherein the mass call event detector and notifier are embodied at the STP."

Neither Clermont, Brockman, or a combination of Clermont and Brockman disclose, teach, or suggest a mass call event detector and a notifier embodied within a signal transfer point.

Applicants agree with Examiner that Clermont does not clearly teach that the network comprises an STP and wherein the mass call event detector and notifier are embodied at the STP. Further, Applicants do not believe Brockman discloses, teaches, or suggests a manner by which to detect mass call events. Rather, Brockman states, "Finally, there is a need for a telephone monitoring system which can monitor the SS7 messages of a mated pair cluster in order to implement what is known as "mass call onset detection." Mass call onset detection is useful in circumstances where a large number of callers attempt to call a single phone number at the same time, such as where radio stations give away prizes to callers who call in immediately, thereby creating a mass call-in. Mass call onset detection applications detect this situation early as the number of SS7 messages pertaining to a particular phone number increases rapidly and alert the phone company quickly to the large number of busy conditions associated with a given phone number." (please see column 3, lines 4-16). As can be seen, Brockman discloses that there is a need to detect mass call events but does not disclose a manner by which to detect such an event.

Further, Brockman specifically depicts monitoring equipment (130, 140) that is positioned *apart and away* from an STP (please see Figures 1 and 7), and describes such monitoring equipment in a similar fashion (please see column 9, lines 5-14).

Currently amended Claim 16 (which includes at least a limitation of presently canceled Claim 2) advantageously includes, among other elements, detecting and notifying that occurs within a signal transfer point. As previously described, Neither Clermont, Brockman, or a combination of Clermont and Brockman disclose, teach, or suggest detecting and notifying that occurs within a signal transfer point.

Per the aforementioned remarks, Applicants believe currently amended Claims 1 and 16 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request they be passed to allowance. Since Claims 3-15 depend on currently amended Claim 1 which Applicants

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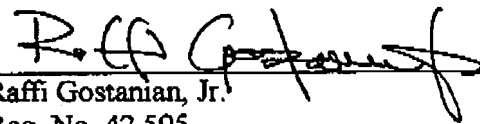
believe is in condition for allowance, and since Claims 17-20 depend on currently amended Claim 16 which Applicants believe is in condition for allowance, Applicants believe dependent Claims 3-15 and 17-20 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 3-20 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible.

Respectfully Submitted,


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